

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: ENRG, WB

SUBJ: BERLIN ENERGY REPORT RELEASED

REFS: 1976 USBERLIN A-052; 1976 USBERLIN A-058

SUMMARY: BERLIN SENAT HAS RELEASED COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY REPORT IN PREPARATION FOR NEARLY A YEAR. NO NEW POLICY DEPARTURES ARE ANNOUNCED. REPORT NOTES THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY FOR IMPORTED ELECTRIC POWER BEFORE MID-80S AT BEST, AND THAT TWO POWER PLANTS OF 300 MEGAWATTS EACH WILL HAVE TO BE BUILT IN CITY TO COME ONSTREAM 1980/81 AND 1982/83. NO TALKS WILL BE HELD ON POWER FROM EAST UNTIL AFTER FRG ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER. ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBILITY FOR NUCLEAR POWER IS PESSIMISTIC. END SUMMARY.

1. THE BERLIN SENAT ON JULY 13 APPROVED AND RELEASED ITS LONG-AWAITED GENERAL ENERGY REPORT. REPORT
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COVERS IN 124 PAGES ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS FROM 1970

TO 1975 AND PROGNOSIS TO 1981, WITH ESTIMATES OF TRENDS TO 1985. IT CONTAINS NO SURPRISES AND NO SIGNIFICANT NEW POLICY DEPARTURES. MISSION WILL FORWARD REPORT UNDER AIRGRAM COVER WHEN ADDITIONAL COPIES AVAILABLE.

2. CENTER POINT OF REPORT AND OF DISCUSSION WHEN ECONOMICS SENATOR LUEDER RELEASED IT TO THE PRESS IS QUESTION OF FUTURE ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLY, ENERGY AREA WHICH IS CURRENTLY GIVING SENAT SOME DIFFICULTY. LUEDER DECLARED IT REMAINS SENAT POLICY TO SEEK BERLIN'S INTEGRATION INTO AN EAST-WEST POWER GRID WITH GUARANTEED SECURITY, BUT SUCH SOLUTION AT BEST COULD NOT BE FOUND BEFORE MID-1980'S. BASED ON AN ESTIMATED 5.5 PERCENT AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH IN POWER DEMAND, AN ADDITIONAL 300 MEGAWATTS(MW) OF GENERATING CAPACITY(FOR COMPARISON PRESENT CAPACITY IS 1977 MW) IS NEEDED DURING FISCAL YEAR (JULY/JULY) 1980/1981, AND A FURTHER 300 MW ONLY TWO YEARS LATER. LUEDER NOTED 5.5 PERCENT ESTIMATE IS MINIMUM AVERAGE GROWTH RATE TO BE EXPECTED, AND OBSERVED THAT BERLIN POWER CONSUMPTION IN 75/76 FISCAL YEAR WAS 5.9 PERCENT ABOVE PREVIOUS YEAR. HE SAID CONSTRUCTION OF FIRST NEW POWER PLANT MUST START IN FALL 1976, AND URGED EARLY APPROVAL OF OBERHADEL SITE WHICH IS CURRENTLY TIED UP IN CONSIDERATION BY SPANDAU LOCAL AUTHORITIES, SITE FOR SECOND 300-MW BLOCK, WHICH IS IN CONFUSED IF NOT DORMANT STATUS, WILL NEED TO BE APPROVED BY 1978.

3. BERLIN CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, WHICH BELIEVES POWER DEMAND WILL RISE AT 6.5 PERCENT PER YEAR, SIMULTANEOUSLY ISSUED STATEMENT URGING SENAT TO QUICK AND DECISIVE ACTION ON POWER-PLANT EXPANSION, NOTING THE CITY COULD ILL-AFFORD TO HAVE IMPRESSION DEVELOP THAT AFTER A CERTAIN POINT AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF ELECTRIC POWER IN BERLIN WAS NO LONGER GUARANTEED.

4. LEUDER NOTED FREQUENT REFERENCES BY GDR AND THE SEW IN WEST BERLIN TO AN ALLEGED OFFER TO MAKE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AVAILABEL 300 MW BASE-LOAD POWER TO WEST BERLIN. HE SAID NEGOTIATING PARTNER FOR SUCH AN OFFER WOULD BE THE FRG, AND LATTER HAS NO SUCH OFFER BEFORE IT. HE NOTED TALKS ON EASTERN POWER WOULD NOT BE STARTED UNTIL AFTER OCTOBER ELECTIONS IN FRG.

5. REPORT NOTES THAT " THEORETICAL" STUDY IS UNDERWAY ON FEASIBILITY OF BUILDING A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

IN BERLIN. IT STATES PESSIMISTICALLY HOWEVER THAT
" PARTIAL RESULTS OF THE INCOMPLETE STUDY INDICATE
THAT ERECTION OF A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN BERLIN
(WEST) WITH APPLICATION OF THE PRESENTLY USUAL
REACTOR CONCEPT WOULD MEET WITH SIZEABLE DIFFICULTIES."

6. IN OTHER AREAS OF THE ENERGY PICTURE, REPORT
PREDICTS PRIMARY ENERGY REQUIREMENT WILL RISE AT
9.7 TO 9.9 PERCENT PER ANNUM FOR NEXT FIVE YEARS,
AND THAT HEATING GAS REQUIREMENT WILL RISE AT 7
PERCENT PER YEAR. REPORT SPECULATES ON POSSIBILI-
TIES TO ACQUIRE NATURAL GAS BUT SHOWS NO FIRM IDEAS
AS TO WHERE IT IS TO COME FROM. EASTERN SUPPLY IS
NOT MENTIONED.

7. REPORT ILLUMINATES REALITY THAT BERLIN CURRENTLY
HAS NO PROSPECTS FOR LONG-TALKED-ABOUT OUTSIDE SUPPLY
OF EITHER ELECTRICITY OR GAS, AND THAT IT MUST RELY
INDEFINITELY ON GENERATING ITS OWN SECONDARY ENERGY.
FOCUSING UPON THIS NECESSITY, REPORT SUGGESTS THAT
CITY'S ECOLOGY WILL PROBABLY NOT BE UNACCEPTABLY
DAMAGED BY BUILDING MORE POWER PLANTS BEFORE ABOUT
1990, BUT CONCEDES THERE ARE NO CONVENIENT STANDARDS
BY WHICH TO JUDGE THAT ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE IS
EXCESSIVE. IT NOTES THAT MAJOR DAMAGE IS NOT IN AIR
OR WATER POLLUTION, BUT IN DETERIORATION IN QUALITY
OF VISUAL SURROUNDINGS, A FACTOR OF GREAT IMPORTANCE
IN FENCED-IN BERLIN. REPORT OF COURSE DOES NOT
FOCUS ON WEAKNESS AND DISARRAY WHICH SENAT HAS DEMON-
STRATED IN FACING POLITICAL PORBLEM OF COMPLAINTS BY
RELATIVELY SMALL GROUPS OF CITIZENS OVER LOCATION OF
PROPOSED NEW POWER PLANTS IN THEIR NEIGHBOR HOOD.
GEORGE

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